UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1996/932
12 November 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 7 November 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning violations of Iraqi airspace by the U-2 aircraft.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex, the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 7 November 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

We refer to our letter of 7 September 1996 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1996/727) concerning the violation of Iraq's airspace by the United States U-2 spy plane on the pretext of conducting aerial surveys for the Special Commission.

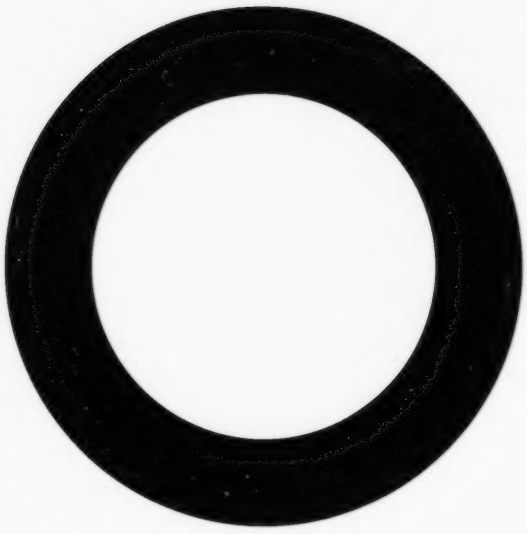
I should like to inform you that this aircraft, which takes off from Saudi territory, has continued its invasions and penetrations of Iraq's airspace in violation of the country's sovereignty and security. As of the end of October 1996 it had made 324 overflights, for a total flight time of 1,448 hours and 28 minutes, since it began such operations in August 1991.

The facts that have come to light since this aircraft was first brought into use, which are set forth in our aforementioned letter, and the ill repute the aircraft has acquired from its past espionage activities in various parts of the world, make it incumbent upon the United Nations to re-examine the question of the continued coercive use of the aircraft by the United States of America to violate Iraq's airspace in a manner totally incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as they relate to respect for the sovereignty of all Member States.

We condemn these unjustified violations of our airspace and take this opportunity to reaffirm the request we have consistently made in the 114 letters on this matter that we have addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that Iraqi aircraft be used instead of foreign aircraft in the work of the Special Commission in order to exclude any possibility of such aircraft being used for purposes prejudicial to Iraq's sovereignty and security.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq



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LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith, a letter addressed to Your Excellency from H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of State at the Ministry of External Relations of the Sudan, dated 11 November 1996, regarding the implementation of Security Council resolution 1070 (1996).

I would be grateful if this letter and its enclosure be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih M. ERWA
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 11 November 1996 from the Minister of State at the Ministry of External Relations of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General

Now that the deadline specified by the Security Council for the Sudan to comply with Security Council resolution 1070 (1996) is approaching, I wish to draw your attention to the following facts:

1. After a painstaking search and inquiry, the Government of the Sudan is totally convinced that none of the three persons accused of the attempted assassination of President Hosni Mubarak is present in the territory of the Sudan. We stated as much during our meetings with your Special Envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi.

2. The Government of the Sudan reiterates its total condemnation of the incident and of all forms of terrorism and finds no justification of any kind, whether moral or political, for terrorist operations anywhere in the world.

3. The Government of the Sudan has in the past made intensive efforts, and continues to do so, to improve its relations with neighbouring States, as we informed your Special Envoy on the occasion of his latest visit to the Sudan and we shall endeavour to continue those efforts until normalization of our relations with our neighbours is finally achieved, an endeavour in which we hope for the support of others.

4. The Sudan affirms its readiness to cooperate fully with the international community in pursuing the three accused outside the Sudan.

5. I wish to draw your attention to an important matter, namely the adverse humanitarian consequences that we and a number of non-governmental voluntary agencies have determined will result from the prohibition of flights by Sudanese aircraft outside the borders of the Sudan. In short, those effects are due to the fact that:

(a) Sudan Airways is the only carrier of perishable vaccines used to immunize millions of Sudanese children against rickets, tuberculosis and contagious diseases. You are well aware that stopping the operations of this carrier will result in the death of perhaps millions of children or in inflicting on them permanent ailments such as rickets or intractable diseases such as pulmonary tuberculosis and diphtheria, in addition to endemic diseases such as malaria, typhoid, onchocerciasis and sleeping sickness.

(b) Sudan Airways carries thousands of elderly patients suffering from intractable diseases such as cancer, liver failure, heart disease and arterial diseases on a weekly basis to London, Cairo, Amman and Jedda on travel tickets that are discounted by 50 per cent and are paid for in local currency. Many of the world's mass communications media noted that all the passengers on board the

Sudanese aircraft that was hijacked last September to London were sick people travelling to Jordan for treatment. Stopping the operation of this carrier would lead to the deaths of thousands of patients and would deprive thousands of others of the right to treatment.

(c) Sudan Airways carries the effects of expatriate Sudanese citizens in the Gulf States, who number over a million, and who, in their turn, support families numbering as many as 5 million people. The consignments sent at reduced prices and on favourable payment terms contain medicines and foodstuffs. Once again, you will be well aware of the serious damage that will be caused to that number of citizens as a result of an embargo on Sudanese aviation.

(d) Sudan Airways offers its services to numerous refugees who live in the Sudan and its services are also used by local and worldwide humanitarian organizations who provide assistance to those refugees.

(e) Sudan Airways links remote parts of the Sudan and an external embargo on it would entail a decrease in its services and a decrease in the standard of safety equipment in airports which would contribute to the break-up of Sudan's unity, integrity and stability.

Mr. Secretary-General:

In the name of millions of sick children and elderly people, we appeal to you to face the members of the Security Council with their responsibilities and to draw their attention to the real mistakes and imminent humanitarian disasters that will result from any decision to ban Sudan Airways from flying outside the Sudan. It is a matter first and foremost of the lives and well-being of millions of innocent people who depend on this carrier to avert the dangers of deadly and lethal diseases in a country that is classified as among the least developed countries whose limited possibilities and scarce resources, as mentioned, are well known to you.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Dr. Mustapha Osman ISMAIL
Minister of State at the
Ministry of External Relations,
Khartoum, the Sudan